## HANNIBAL ONCE PASSED ALONG SAVOY HIGHWAY

Land of Permission, on One of Two Main Roads to Rome and Close to Roof of Europe, Has Had Absorbing History

Down the narrow valley will run a tiny river (which you will probably call a creek) of chalky water, going at a speed which makes up for its lack of depth and breadth. The knobby hill sides will be planted with scrubby oaks and chestnuts: or, around the villages, they will have been cleared of trees by the painful effort of generations of hardy Savoyards, and lines of graperines on trellises will run in layers across the steep slopes wherever the sun shines on them at noon.

then at noon.

Ragged little groups of houses will from time to time appear, clustering about the confluence of two of the tiny streams of chalky water; houses of stucco, tall and red-roofed, and strung along the glaring white mountain road which leads to the station, also of slucco and red-roofed, and marked with a blue sign bearing the name of some saint or other.

where Hannibal's Elephants Passed
There will not be much traffy on these roads now, aside from the few patient ox teams which have come down from the hills, but there has been tre 22c in the past, and that of the negatiest. The main road through Save, is the road to Haly over the Moat Cenis: and this meeds a chapter to itself. There are only two main roads to Haly from France, this road and the road along the Mediterranean through Nice.

The first time Napoleon descended into the Italian plain and swept it clean of Austrian troops he went by way of Nice: later, he swept into Italy by way of Switzerland and the St. Bernard Pass; and when he came back from Elba for the last Hundred Days of his imperial rule he came through Nice, crossed the end of the Mas, due north from Nice over the pass of the Col du Lantardt, where the road runs 6,006 feet in the air, to Grenoble, in the next cannty to Savey.

It was he who built the mountain highway which parallels the Savoy rail way line to Italy over the Mont Cenishuil it to keep his communications with the Italian kingdom which he constructed filmsily, like a house of cards, 10, 110 feet he road wave good or bad, and Crusaders, and Roman legions, and Hamilial's delphants before that, passed over it on their way to pillage the rich cities of Italy, or, going north, to conquer the barbarian.

## The Road to Rome

The Road to Rome

The main Savoy read is, insother words, the road to Rome which all western Europe has traveled; and Savoy is the Alpine wall which separates the valley of the Rome from the valley of the Po, as Switzerland is the Alpine wall which separated Roman etvilization from the barbarism of the north.

Whatever part Savoy has played in the past relationship of France and Italy, of Gaul and Rome, it is of particular interest in the very recent history of those countries, and particularly of Italy. When one remembers that a united Italy exists only since 1870, and that the royal house which united Italy was, only a little more than a hundred years ago, supreme over only the mountain Duchy of Savoy and the mountained so foresten and Sardivia, then one realizes that even in Europe, the home of sottled things, the destinic overnight as it were, as in the swiftly echanging new countries on the other side of the Atlantic. changing new co of the Atlantic.

## Savoy Becomes French

The ducal house of Savoy became the royal house of the Sardinian islands; extended to include the Piedmont plain at the Italian foot of the Alpine wall; wrested from Austria, with France's help and England's approval, the whole northern end of the Italian peninsula—Milan and Venice—in 1850; consolidated the petty kingdoms and grand duchies

When you go down to Savoy to spend of central Italy: employed the potent your first regular seven days of "permission" since you came to France you will probably wake up in the morning to find that your train is passing through a narrow valley between granite don. From Chambery, its little Savoyard bills Down the narrow valley will run a the plain of the Po. to Rome, is a long

Mountains By the Dozen
Savoy, on the map, is heavily shaded
with contour lines, cut by narrow valleys which mean that it is simply the
country of the Alps, one can stop off at
any little village, and find a dozen mountains convenient. There will not be much
in the village tiself; an Hotel de la Gare,
or an Hotel des Postes, a store or two,
and perhaps a market place; perhaps,
too, a rulned convent, or a mountain
fort, or a church of the twelfth reatury
perched on an inconventent peak. Most
people prefer to go, however, where the
common or garden variety of tourist
goes, and plants hotels behind him.
Those places are Aix-les-Bains, Chambery, Chambic, and Anney.

Chamblery can be easily dismissed. As
Brandlery can be easily dismissed.

con. tall a ... ong the glaring was. hich leads to the station, area. ong the glaring was. hich leads to the station, area. In real-roofed, and marked with a manifer of the lines of grapevines which mark them out, but the roads will be different. There will be mountain reads of course, muddy or rocky, with ox teams patiently hailing stedges or huge-wheeled carts up to the hillstop farmhouses; but there will also be the highways, the said routes nationales, paralleling the railroad in places, and then winding off and up over rocky passes.

Where Hannibal's Elephants Passed

There will not be much traffy on these roads now, aside from the few patient ox teams which have come down from the stands of the roads have that of the mightiest. The days is the road to have the state of the part of the mightiest. The course of the state of the course of the state of the state of the course of the state of the stat

Chamonix is a little village cuddled in a hollow at the deer to Mont Blanc; which the tourist earls the king of the Alps. Mont Blanc is the highest mountain in Europe outside of one peak in the Cancausa, boasting something like 15,000 feet, and it has probably been more thoroughly "convisitized" from the start there has a hotel, and five hours point of the start there has a hotel, and five hours beyond that there is a refuse. More cover, one does not sitr a foot without three guildes, and it is even planned to initial a switchback up to the very top of the 15,000 feet.

Bandeker must have seen the top in Bandeker must have spended out it is even become the same trail and there is a refuse. More point in the switchback up to the very top of the 15,000 feet.

taken to get there, inasmuch as the view sometimes fails to materialize because of the great distances. When the weather is too good, it is possible to listinguish only the general outlines of he view, the Alps, the Jura Mountains and the Apennines. As in the case of all long-distance paporamas, the view is complete only in case light clouds serve

is a filter for the dazzling sun." This is not Baedeker's only grievance guides, at 100 francs each, and one porguides, at 100 francs each, and one porter at 50 francs, are needed for one climber, and an additional guide for each additional tourist. Then there must be added the cost of provisions, the hotel expenses at the six-hour hotel, and so on, so that the cost of the ascent is not less than 250 francs per head." To this tale of wee he adds, without a pause, the caution, "The warmest footwear is necessary for walking on the snow and ice."

### About Those Snow Storms

Blane not worth while: and there are many tourists who have scattered their gof francs over the two or three days in which the trip is made who agree with him. The chances on hitting a snowstorm at the top are too overpowering to permit any but the most fortunate of travelers to disprove Baedeker's pessinism; but, after all, one goes to Ciambing Mont Blane, and goes on consolf be persuaded by eager guides. Then one runs into the aforesaid snowstorm, and talks for the rest of onc's life to admiring friends of the perils of Alpine mountain climbing. Thus fixed in the conquering mood, one scorns the petty fixed-housand-feet foothills of Mont Blane, and goes out carelessly on the Mer de Glace, or Ice Sea, under the hotel windows, and breaks a 'leg. All this to point a moral. One ought to 'do' Mont Blane, to be sure; but the only way to see anything is to knock about on the smaller peaks in the hope of finding a clear day when one can get a view.

Some Tips for Tourists

## Some Tips for Tourists

Once 11ps for lourists
One can do this, as I have said, anywhere in Savoy; and after a while one monutain is as good as another. The really wise person may like to drop limiself down—or up, rather—into the encircled hollow of Chamonix; but he would do as well to make for one or other of the two downs of Savoy of which I have spoken—Aix-les-Bains and Anneer.

three guides, and it is even planned to modeled on Aix.

It is a far cry from the dusty little of the 15,000 feet.

Bacdeker must have seen the top in a snowstorm, for he is very doubtful, in spite of his German thoroughness, of the results attained by so much labor, the results attained by so much labor, the results attained by so much labor of Aix with its easinos and villas. But it is all swept by the Southern sun. It is all swept by the Southern sun. It

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## STAFF OFFICER WAS JUST TRYING IT OUT

Soldiers Take Gas Mask **Experiment for Real** Thing

It was a nice night, as nights at the front go. The staff officer who had been up to the front on an inspection tour all about the first line and everywhere thought it was a nice night, too. In fact, he thought it was nice enough, and just about dark enough, for him to get

just about dark enough, for him to get a little practice, on his walk back to brigade headquarters, in wearing that confounded gas mask.

He slipped it up, over and on. Then, wheezing and chortling meerily into its cavernous maw, he strode on his way.

He hadn't gone far when he met a column of four untle teams, the first commanded by Private Paddy Whack. Paddy took one look at the officer, then made a dive for the mask on the seat beside him.

their heads thus in leather and rubber. Heaching for his own-mask, he shouted ahead to them:
"Ye're fine muleskinners, so ye are! Protectin' yerselves and forgittin' th' poor canaries:" With that, all three drivers got down and adjusted the nosebag contraptions to their wondering steeds.

But George, the fourth driver, didn't stop for that. He pulled his team around so fast they thought they were doing the chariot race in "Ben Ilur." Off they went at a gallop to the rear. "Gas!" hollered George, to a passing sentry who tried to hold him up. "Gas, comin' down the pike hell bent for election! Get your mask ort."
"Corp! o' the gua-a-a-a-a-a-arrrrrud!" walled the sentry. "Corp! o' the gua-a-a-a-a-a-a-a-a-rrrrrrud!" SS!".

## **Everybody Following Suit**

Well within the required six seconds every man in that section of the support had his face muffler out and on, the gong had sounded, and everyone was on the alert.

From the interior of his cage the staff officer stradually became aware of the havoe he had wrought by his innocent little practice promenade. Guittly, he whipped off his mask and sneaked around to headquarters by a devious route.

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